



#### THIS ISSUE

Gil Intern: Page 2

Website: Page 2

PSYC 395: Page 3

Jobs & Opps: Page 3

#### IMPT DATES

Thanksgiving Recess November 24—27

Last Day of Class
December 7

Reading Days December 8 December 14

Final Exam Days December 9—10 December 12—13 December 15—16

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# Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

Volume 5 | Issue 3 November 2016

#### Student Spotlight

Meet **Angela Zhang** a junior majoring in Psychology and Biology. Angela works in Dr. Neil Mulligan's Memory Laboratory.

**Tell us about your research.** I am involved in research investigating the attentional boost effect and its applicability to advertising. My current project seeks to examine whether or not the attentional boost effect can be applied in naturalistic settings, such as improving memory for logos and other forms of advertising.

What is the most valuable lesson you've learned from this experience? Studies won't always run as smoothly as you hope—and you won't always get the results



that you expect. However, that does not mean that you have failed or that your research doesn't have any value. Unexpected or even non-significant results can still be important and interesting. As a researcher, you need to be flexible and prepared to adapt to whatever circumstances may arise.

What do you like most about your research? I really enjoy being able to delve deeply into a particular topic and having the chance to critically evaluate the latest research on my topic of study. I also enjoy the opportunity to contribute new knowledge to the field of psychology and to build upon previous work in creating a fuller understanding of the world around us.



#### Meet a Gil Intern!

Meet **Rachel Phillips**, one of our Fall 2016 interns with the <u>Karen M. Gil Internship</u> <u>Program in Psychology and Neuroscience</u>.

Rachel is a senior working towards a B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Neuroscience and Biology. She is interning with the UNC Biomedical Research Imaging Center (BRIC) with Dr. Daughters and the Biobehavioral Research on Addiction and Emotion (BRANE) lab. Rachel's project involves an fMRI study examining the effect of transcranial alternating current stimulation on distress tolerance in substance users.

In her internship, Rachel has worked on developing the study's experimental design by meeting with Dr. Daughters, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the BRANE lab, and research faculty in other departments including Neurology and Behavioral and Integrative Neuroscience. Collaborative opportunities such as these have given insight into tACS administration, including how to perform stimulation safely with participants.

In addition, Rachel has learned new techniques for recording psychophysiological measurements like galvanic skin response (GSR) and EKG for heart rate. Currently, she is training on how to process fMRI data, which can be very challenging. Rachel says, "Once our study begins recruiting participants, I will be responsible for apply this new knowledge by helping instruct participants through tasks when they are in the fMRI scanner and interpreting the resulting data."

"One of the biggest takeaways I have gleaned is flexibility. Any obstacles have taught me more about the process of scientific research, providing an appreciation for this sometimes bumpy process," says Rachel. "Despite any setbacks in our study timeline, my internship has allowed me to clearly define my research interests for graduate school." Rachel plans to apply to Clinical Psychology Ph.D. programs this year and she encourages students to consider the Karen M. Gil Internship Program. She states: "There is no other opportunity on campus that enables you to network with leaders in the field, explore your interests in depth, and learn alongside a brilliant cohort of peers."

#### Visit the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience online!

Our website has a lot of GREAT information for our undergraduates. Here are some pages you should visit in order to get the full major experience! <u>Visit our website</u>, <u>like us on Facebook</u>, or <u>follow us on Twitter</u>!

- \* Ever wondered what you can do with a major in Psychology? A B.A. or B.S. in Psych can provide useful in a variety careers! Learn about your <u>potential career options</u> with entry level salaries!
- \* Studying Abroad is a learning experience unlike any other! College is the perfect time to discover different cultures, gain useful language skills, and explore! You can <u>study abroad</u> in over 70 countries, take PSYC courses internationally, and some of our Psychology faculty can even go along with you!
- \* Have you thought about joining a major-related club? What about volunteering in the community? Both are excellent additions to your resume, and can also provide you with new skills, experiences, and even friends! Find a club or volunteer opportunity perfect for you.
- \* <u>Undergraduate research</u> is a great way to get involved in a laboratory and prepare for graduate school. Find out how to find a research mentor, share your research, and seek funding as an undergrad!

## Call for Submissions!

The Undergraduate Journal of Psychology at Berkeley is now accepting applications for original undergraduate research work for publication in the Spring 2017 issue. Undergraduates at UNC involved in psychology, neuroscience, and other cognitive sciences can submit their work for review.

Work can include senior honors theses, course term papers, independent research projects, literature reviews, and all other excellent undergraduate research. Submit your work now!

## Undergraduate Research Opp!

Interested in participating in undergraduate research and earning course credit in Spring 2017? Sign-up for PSYC 395!

This is an excellent opportunity to work with graduate students and faculty members! Conducting hands-on research helps undergraduates develop a deeper understanding of psychological research methods and to prepare for graduate school.

To sign up for PSYC 395, submit an application to Rachael Hall before January 12, 2017.

#### Jobs & Other Opportunities

position in psychology? Check out an online database of active positions! You can also subscribe by email to be notified of new postings. This is a great resource for new graduates!



Duke University Medical Center is currently seeking applicants for a Neuropsychological Technician. Duties include administering a neuropsychological test battery and questionnaires to older adults as part of an evaluation for dementia. Preferred qualifications include a B.A. or a B.S. in psychology. Contact the study coordinator Julie Fleenor to apply.



Qualtrics, a software company, is searching for psychology students who are graduating in December to join the product specialist team. IN this role, one can interact with top minds from the world's most innovative companies, helping them solve complex problems every day. Learn more about the position and apply online.



The Marcus Autism Center, in conjunction with the Emory University School of Medicine and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, is offering







Looking for a post-baccalaureate four fellowships in developmental social neuroscience, speech science and engineering, computational neuroscience, and design engineer. Students who receive a bachelor's degree by June 2017 are eligible for positions. Two-year fellowships will commence in July 2017. Learn more online at Emory University School of Medicine.



The Carolina Research Scholar Program fosters and expands engagement in undergraduate research at UNC Chapel Hill. Students must complete IDST 194 or 184 and 1 research course for 3 credits. Students must also complete at least 2 research-intensive courses and present their research. Once the requirements are complete, apply online to earn the transcript designation. Learn more online!



Are you having trouble registering for a course in fall or spring? Consider registering for summer school Our Department offers many upper -level courses during the summer sessions! Summer classes are also a great way to take courses to transfer to a home institution, satisfy general elective requirements, or to satisfy personal curiosity. Summer 2017 course offerings are available Dec. 16. Learn more!